THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any communication from the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) with regard to the names of defaulters of banks being made public by them. However, Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited is maintaining a database on suit-filed accounts of Rs. 1 Crore and above and non suit-filed accounts (wilful defaulters) of Rs. 25 Lacs and above. The information can be accessed at CIBIL website *www.cibil.com.*

(c) and (d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans, which, *inter-alia*, include evolving and implmenting a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 has been enacted to provide for regulation of credit information companies and to facilitate efficient distribution of credit. Credit Information Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks.

Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius

134. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Mauritius discussed about the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty recently in the light of abolition of long-term capital gains tax; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loans to poor people

135. PROF M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide loan for the poor people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government for implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government have formulated several schemes under which loans are provided by banks to the poor people. These include:—

1. A holistic Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development through Scheduled Commercial Bank, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks;
2. An urban poverty alleviation programme, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) implemented by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation through Scheduled Commercial Banks;
3. An employment generation scheme for specific segment, Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice through Public Sector banks; and
4. A self-employment programme for educated unemployed youth within the age group of 18-35 years, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) implemented by Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries through all scheduled commercial banks except RRBs.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government of India have initiated several steps for effective implementation of these schemes.

(i) Banks have been instructed to dispose off applications for loans up to Rs. 25,000 within 2 weeks and upto Rs. 2 lakh within 4 weeks, provided the loan applications are complete in all respects.

(ii) Time frame have been laid down for receipt of application from the sponsoring agencies to banks and thereafter sanction and disbursements of loans by banks.

(iii) State Governments have been advised to identify viable activities jointly with banks at the district level.

(iv) Regular review meetings are held at district and State Levels to monitor the progress of these schemes.

(v) Banks have been advised to carry out scrutiny of rejected applications by a higher authority from their controlling/Head Office.

Grievances of credit card holders

136. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following widespread complaints from credit card holders, RBI has come out with certain guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the guidelines issued by RBI in May, 2003 have been helped in removing the grievances of the card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India had issued Fair Practice Code for Lenders in May, 2003 advising scheduled commercial banks and All India Financial Institutions not to resort to undue harassment of the borrowers including credit card holders. However, Government has been receiving representations from individuals and different organizations regarding grievances against banks issuing credit cards, which are referred to the concerned Banks for redressal and appropriate action. With a view to further mitigate hardship faced by the credit card holders, the Reserve Bank of India has placed draft guidelines on credit card operations in public domain on 28.06.2005 on its website www.rbi.org.in.

Penalty on companies

137. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have slapped tax penalty of 10,000 crores on certain companies; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies and amount of penalty imposed on them?